

inserted into the recesses to lock the spool. Specie 3 involves inserting a pin between two aligned recesses: the cassette hub and the spool ring. Each of the suggested species involves a means for locking the spool with aligned recesses and a pin. Applicant therefore submits that claim 5 is generic.

Claim 10 is dependent on generic claim 1. Claim 10 also includes a means for preventing the filament from tangling using a means to guide the filament as it is withdrawn from the cassette. Each of the suggested species involves a means for guiding the filament as it is withdrawn from the cassette. Applicant therefore submits that claim 10 is generic.

Claim 11 is dependent on generic claims 1 and 10. In addition, claim 11 involves guiding a filament strand through a floating tubular guide. Each of the suggested species involves a means for using a floating tubular guide to guide a filament strand. Applicant therefore submits that claim 11 is generic.

Claim 19 includes a method of assembling the cassette in generic claim 5, which in turn is dependent on generic claim 3. The steps of claim 19 involve loading the spool into the chamber, positioning the filament strand in the path, holding the filament in tension, and inserting the pin. Each of the suggested species employs the method in claim 19. Applicant submits that claim 19 is generic.

Claim 20 is dependent on the method of generic claim 19. In addition, claim 20 involves threading the filament strand through a tubular guide member prior to the step of positioning the filament strand in the path. Each of the suggested species includes threading the filament strand through a tubular guide before the positioning step. Applicant therefore submits that claim 20 is generic.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has attempted in earnest to address each issue raised in the Office Action of May 3, 2005. In view of the foregoing, Applicant requests notice of allowability for all pending claims 1-20.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0982.

Respectfully submitted,

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